

Collaboration for Integrated Water Resources Management

Planning CoP Conference

May 9-11, 2006

San Francisco, CA

The theme for the 2006 conference is “Collaboration for Integrated Water Resources Management.” Integrated management of water resources has been the central theme in both of Planning’s previous “Economics and Environment” conferences – emphasizing planner’s roles in identifying solutions that are beneficial for both the economy and the environment, and in considering problems at a systems-level rather than at a site-specific scale.

Effectively implementing an integrated approach to water resources management requires greater collaboration among stakeholders and partners. Collaborative planning involves coordinating the authorities, capabilities, and financial investment of multiple partners to solve water resources problems in a more holistic and sustainable way.

Collaborative planning engages not only a traditional non-Federal cost sharing sponsor in partnership with the Corps, but also representatives from other Federal, State and local agencies as members of the study team and bringing their expertise, programs and projects together with the Corps. Collaborative planning is encouraged for traditional project scale planning and is essential to the success of watershed scale planning.

The purpose of this conference, then, is to demonstrate how Corps planners fit into this collaborative environment and to address how we can maximize the effectiveness of our collective talents, authorities, and resources in helping the Nation solve its water resources problems.

The conference will be structured to provide a forum to discuss plan formulation, economic and environmental topics related to the Corps’ primary mission areas. Over three days, this joint Planning conference will address a wide variety of topics related to plan formulation, environmental evaluation and economic analysis, and other planning topics presented in a mix of joint and concurrent sessions. The conference will emphasize interactions among economists, environmental scientists, engineers, and other planners. The format will allow for discussions of lessons learned, case studies, and current and potential future issues facing the Corps. Topics relating to the full range of Corps activities including problem identification, plan formulation and evaluation, engineering and construction, operations and maintenance, and adaptive management and monitoring, may be discussed. Sessions on policy, professional development, and communities of practice are also being developed.

Questions about the Planning CoP Conference 2006 can be directed to the Conference Chair, Bruce Carlson: bruce.d.Carlson@usace.army.mil Watch future issues of Planning Ahead for updates on Conference news.